

Appl. No. 10/613,033

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 2 has been amended so as to be a generic claim. Claims 16, 23 and 27 have been cancelled. All of the remaining claims have been amended to depend upon claim 2. Claim 2 recites that the nonlinear medium comprises at least one segment of highly nonlinear fiber. The original dependent claims now depend upon this and simply recite the various permutations for the nonlinear medium.

With these amendments, claim 2 is generic, and

Species I consists of claims 1 to 14 (HNLF, HNLF);

Species II consists of claims 15, 17 to 21 and 26, 28 to 32 (DSF, DSF, SMF, HNLF); and

Species III consists of claims 22, 24, and 25 (DSF, SMF, DSF, HNLF).

Note the order for 26, 28 to 32 is the reverse of that for claims 15, 17 to 21.

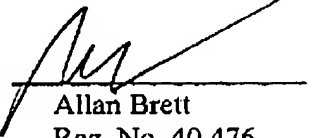
In the event a restriction is still required, applicant requests consideration of the claims directed towards species II, namely claims 15, 17 to 21 and 26, 28 to 32. The other claims have been indicated as being "withdrawn" in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. However, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider whether restriction is required, and if not, to consider the withdrawn claims.

In view of the foregoing, early favorable consideration of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIMA AHMADVAND, ET AL.

By


Allan Brett
Reg. No. 40,476
Tel.: (613) 232-2486

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